

conquest of Spain by the Goths in the fifth and sixth centuries threatened the Spanish Jews, however, -with more serious adversaries than the Romans. The Gothic tribes, very recently converted to their Syrian faith, were full of barbaric zeal against those whom they looked upon as the enemies of Jesus. But the Spanish Jews sought assistance from, their kinsmen the Saracens on the opposite coast; Spain was invaded and subdued by the Moors, and for several centuries the Jew and the Saracen lived under the same benignant laws and shared the same prosperity.

\* brilliant In the history of Spain during the Saracenic supremacy any distinction of religion or race is no longer traced. • And so it came to pass that when at the end of the fourteenth century, after the fell triumph of the Dominicans over the Albigenses, the Holy Inquisition was introduced into Spain, it was reported to Torquemada that two-thirds of the nobility of Arragon — that is to say, of the proprietors of the land — were Jews.

1 All that these men knew of Christianity was that it was a religion of fire and sword, and that one of its first duties was to revenge some mysterious and inexplicable crime which had been committed ages ago by some j unheard-of ancestors of theirs in an unknown land. The inquisitors addressed I themselves to the Spanish Jews in the same abrupt and ferocious manner in which the monks saluted the Mexicans and the Peruvians. All those of the I Spanish Jews who did not conform after the fall of the Mahomedan kingdoms were expatriated by the victorious Goths, and these refugees were the main source of the Italian Jews, and of the most respectable portion of the Jews of Holland. These exiles } found refuge in two republics — Venice and the United Provinces.

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After this historic preamble we enter the more dubious region of family tradition and genealogical legend.

My grandfather, who became an English denizen in 1748, was an Italian descendant of one of those Hebrew families

«' whom the Inquisition forced to emigrate from the Spanish Peninsula at the end of the fifteenth century, and who found a refuge in the more tolerant territories of the Venetian Republic. His ancestors had dropped their Gothic surname, in honor of their settlement on the terra firma, and, grateful to the God of Jacob who had sustained them through unprecendented trials and guarded them through unheard-of perils,

<sup>1</sup> *Life of Lord G-eorge Bentinck, ch. 24.*